(c) if not, which Centres are yet to be released full assistance and reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the growth centres will become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, five growth centres have been approved in the State of Maharashtra. Under this scheme the Central Government is to provide an assistance of Rs. 10 crore for each growth centre by way of equity which is released on the basis of physical & financial progress made in the implementation of the project by the State Government. The details of the growth centres approved in Maharashtra, the Central assistance released for them and their expected date of completion are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Growth Centre	Central assistance released (Rs. in lakhs)	Expected date of completion
1.	Akola	950	Dec., 2004
2.	Chandrapur	660	Feb., 2007
3.	Dhule	450	Dec., 2004
4.	Nanded	750	Mar., 2002
5.	Ratnagiri	440	Dec., 2004

Sick industrial units in Maharashtra

1094. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many big and medium industrial units are in distress and lying sick in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, industry-wise; and

(c) what measures have been initiated by Government to revive these industrial units in the State within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report, as at the end of March, 1999, there are 495 non-SSI sick/weak units in the State of Maharashtra. At the end of March 1998,

main non-SSI sick/weak industries were textile (79 units), chemicals (55 units), Engineering (51 units), Iron & Steel (33 units), Electrical (20 units) etc.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

Setting up of a paper mill in North Cachar

1095. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any comprehensive proposal under consideration of government to establish a paper mill in private/public/ Cooperative Sector in the North Cachar Hill district of Assam keeping in view the large scale of bamboos available in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason for unwillingness of Government; and

(c) the details of the initiatives taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The Government has no proposal to establish a paper mill in public sector in the North Cachar Hill district of Assam. The Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, a Central Public Sector Undertaking already has a unit i.e. Cachar Paper Mill at Punchgram, District Hailakandi, Assam, located in North of erstwhile Cachar District. Paper Industry has been delicenced and Entrepreneurs are only required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum with Secretariat for Industrial Assistance in this Ministry as, for setting up a paper mill, no licence is required except in terms of locational policy notified by the government or that the proposal does not envisage manufacturing of items reserved for small scale sector.

Decline in industrial growth

1096. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: